

OF THE  
NEW DEMOCRATIC YOUTH LEAGUE  
IN THE NEW CHINA

The China New Democratic Youth League resolved in September 1955 to change its name in 1956 to the China Communist Youth League because the present name "does not accurately indicate the nature and tasks of the Youth League." The League has demonstrated very clearly and frankly its nature and tasks in numerous publications and announcements. One of these shows how no aspect of personal life is left outside Communist direction:

"The work style and group life within the League must not rely on abstract political talk, nor the preaching of dry dogma. The League should use Marxism-Leninism to analyze correctly and solve the problems that are closely related to the interests of the youth such as the following:

wages,	love and social activities,
health,	family affairs,
job,	methodology in learning,
sports and recreations,	books and texts,
learning scientific knowledge,	and the suitable distribution
raising the cultural standard,	of time for work and for study...."
tuition fees,	
student loans,	
examination systems,	

The League has been even more explicit on the role of the League in increasing the pressure on workers to continually add to the crushing burden of labor already imposed upon them by the first Five Year Plan. The Second Congress of the League was called in 1953, the year of the inauguration of

the first Five Year Plan, for the purpose of "mobilizing all sections of Chinese youth for the great tasks that lie ahead in the period of planned economic construction". Senior party leader LIU Shao-ch'i urged his audience at that Congress "to rally around the Party and march in the front ranks of the struggle for the industrialization of the country".

In 1955, "to stimulate still greater enthusiasm for the country's development and to carry the creativeness and activity of young people one step further," the Central Committee of the New Democratic Youth League of China decided to hold a national congress of 1500 young activists in socialist construction in September of that year, according to a report on the "New Democratic Youth League--Closest Assistant of the Chinese Communist Party" by HU Yao-pang, Secretary of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the League, in the September 2, 1955 issue of the organ of the Cominform, "For a Lasting Peace, for a People's Democracy". On 18 September, the Central Standing Committee of the League discussed and approved the report to be delivered by Hu at the Conference.

Hu's article in the Cominform Journal clearly delineates how the League fosters that "creativity and activity of young people" which the "Conference of Young Activists" is designed to "carry...one step further". According to Hu's review of progress since the 1953 Second Congress;

"In factories and mines throughout the country where young people make up nearly 50% of the staff, the League branches urge them to take an active part in socialist emulation, strictly to observe labor discipline and to put forward rationalization proposals which will make it possible to surpass old production quotas...Written pledges to fulfill personal

work quotas were handed in by over 80% of the League members in factories and mines, as well as by a number of young workers outside the League. Advanced young workers are coming forward in an unending stream.

"Youth organizations have done a great deal to popularize the achievements and ideas of these advanced workers, and have thereby inspired more and more young people to greater efforts.

"In response to the call of the League, 759 shock brigades were formed throughout the country, comprising over 13,000 young people. At the same time 864 teams of advanced young workers came into being, constituting together a mighty army on the production front.....[In agriculture] many young people have set examples in reaping good harvests and earned the title of model workers by faithfully carrying out and making known the Party's policy, and by their industry."

That these practices are to be intensified is illustrated by the September 1955 "prediction" by a "leading member of the Secretariat" of the Central Committee of the Youth League, that "a new tide of labor enthusiasm would follow the Conference..."

In these statements the League leadership make clear the role of the League in maintaining and extending the forced labor system now institutionalized in China. "Socialist emulation" means copying the example of "labor model heroes" who regularly overfulfill production quotas assigned to them under the speedup system copied by China from the Soviet

Union. The emphasis on "labor discipline" illustrates vividly the existence of military-type control of factories and mines by the government management, a system under which strikes or other demonstrations of dissatisfaction are forbidden. In view of clarity of League statements on these matters, the change of name from New Democratic Youth League to Communist Youth League is natural and inevitable, and illustrates the rapid transition of China beyond the stage of "New Democracy" outlined by MAO Tse-tung in 1940, into that of a totalitarian state.